

HOTEL BAR

Marge enters. She looks around the bar, a rather characterless, low lit meeting place for business people.

VOICE

Marge?

It is a bald, paunching man of about Marge's age, rising from a booth halfway back. His features are broad, friendly, Asian-American.

MARGE

Mike!

He approaches somewhat carefully, as if on his second drink. They hug and head back toward the booth.

MIKE

Geez! You look great!

MARGE

Yah - easy there - you do too!
I'm expecting, ya know.

MIKE

I see that! That's great!

A waitress meets them at the table.

MIKE

... What can I get ya?

MARGE

Just a Diet Coke.

Again she glances about.

MARGE

... This is a nice place.

MIKE

Yah, ya know it's the Radisson,

so it's pretty good.

MARGE

You're livin' in Edina, then?

MIKE

Oh, yah, couple years now. It's actually Eden Prarie - that school district. So Chief Gunderson, then! So ya went and married Norm Son-of-a-Gunderson!

MARGE

Oh, yah, a long time ago.

MIKE

Great. What brings ya down - are ya down here on that homicide - if you're allowed, ya know, to discuss that?

MARGE

Oh, yah, but there's not a heckuva lot to discuss. What about you, Mike? Are you married - you have kids?

MIKE

Well, yah, I was married. I was married to - You mind if I sit over here?

He is sliding out of his side of the booth and easing in next to Marge.

MIKE

... I was married to Linda Cooksey -

MARGE

No, I - Mike - wyncha sit over there, I'd prefer that.

MIKE

Huh? Oh, okay, I'm sorry.

MARGE

No, just so I can see ya, ya know.
Don't have to turn my neck.

MIKE

Oh, sure, I unnerstand, I didn't
mean to -

MARGE

No, no, that's fine.

MIKE

Yah, sorry, so I was married to
Linda Cooksey - ya remember Linda?
She was a year behind us.

MARGE

I think I remember Linda, yah.
She was - yah. So things didn't
work out, huh?

MIKE

And then I, and then I been workin'
for Honeywell for a few years now.

MARGE

Well, they're a good outfit.

MIKE

Yah, if you're an engineer, yah,
you could do a lot worse. Of
course, it's not, uh, it's
nothin' like your achievement.

MARGE

It sounds like you're doin' really
super.

MIKE

Yah, well, I, uh ... it's not that
it didn't work out - Linda passed

away. She, uh...

MARGE

I'm sorry.

MIKE

Yah, I, uh... She had leukemia,
you know...

MARGE

No, I didn't...

MIKE

It was a tough, uh ... it was a
long - She fought real hard,
Marge...

MARGE

I'm sorry, Mike.

MIKE

Oh, ya know, that's, uh - what
can I say?...

He holds up his drink.

MIKE

... Better times, huh?

Marge clinks it.

MARGE

Better times.

MIKE

I was so... I been so ... and
then I saw you on TV, and I
remembered, ya know... I always
liked you...

MARGE

Well, I always liked you, Mike.

MIKE

I always liked ya so much...

MARGE

It's okay, Mike - Should we get together another time, ya think?

MIKE

No - I'm sorry! It's just - I been so lonely - then I saw you, and...

He is weeping.

MIKE

... I'm sorry... I shouldn't a done this... I thought we'd have a really terrific time, and now I've...

MARGE

It's okay...

MIKE

You were such a super lady ... and then I... I been so lonely...

MARGE

It's okay, Mike...